

Canada. Privileges and Elections,
Standing Committee on, 1955

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Second Session—Twenty-second Parliament
1955

Government
Publications

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- P85

STANDING COMMITTEE

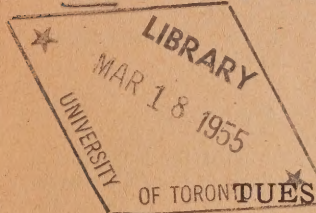
ON

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Chairman: G. Roy McWILLIAM, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 1



TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1955

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

WITNESS:

Mr. Nelson J. Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer.

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1955.

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
Chairman: G. Roy McWilliam, Esq., and
Messrs.

Balcer
Bourque
Bryson
Cardin
Carter
Cavers
Churchill
Dechêne
Dickey
Ellis

Hansell
Harrison
Hollingworth
Leboe
Lefrancois
MacDougall
MacKenzie
McWilliam
Meunier
Murphy (*Lambton West*)

Nowlan
Pallett
Pouliot
Richard (*Ottawa East*)
Robinson (*Bruce*)
Viau
Vincent
White (*Waterloo South*)
Zaplitny

Members, 29.

Quorum, 10.

Antoine Chassé,
Clerk of the Committee.

ORDERS OF REFERENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
FRIDAY, February 4, 1955.

Resolved,—That the following Members do compose the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections:

Messrs.

Balcer,	Fraser (<i>Peterborough</i>),	Murphy (<i>Lambton West</i>),
Bourque,	Hansell,	Nowlan,
Bryson,	Harrison,	Pallett,
Cardin,	Hollingworth,	Pouliot,
Carter,	Leboe,	Richard (<i>Ottawa East</i>),
Cavers,	Lefrancois,	Viau,
Churchill,	MacDougall,	Vincent,
Dechêne,	MacKenzie,	White (<i>Waterloo South</i>),
Dickey,	McWilliam,	Zaplitny—29.
Ellis,	Meunier,	

(Quorum 10)

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

FRIDAY, February 25, 1955.

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be instructed to study the several amendments to the Canada Elections Act, and amendments thereto, suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer, to study the said Act, to suggest to the House such amendments as the Committee may deem advisable and that the Committee be also empowered to enquire into the different methods of effecting the adjustment of representation; that the said Committee have power to print from day to day its minutes of evidence and proceedings and that Standing Order 64 be suspended in relation thereto.

MONDAY, February 28, 1955.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Robinson (*Bruce*) be substituted for that of Mr. Fraser (*Peterborough*) on the said Committee.

TUESDAY, March 8, 1955.

Ordered,—That the said Committee be granted leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Attest.

LEON J. RAYMOND,
Clerk of the House.

REPORT TO THE HOUSE

TUESDAY, March 8, 1955.

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections begs leave to present as follows its

FIRST REPORT

Your Committee recommends that it be granted leave to sit while the House is sitting.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. ROY McWILLIAM,
Chairman.

(The said report was concurred in by the House on the same day)

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

House of Commons, Room 277,

TUESDAY, March 8, 1955.

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at 10.30 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. G. Roy McWilliam, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Balcer, Bryson, Cardin, Carter, Cavers, Churchill, Dechêne, Hansell, Harrison, Lefrançois, MacDougall, McWilliam, Meunier, Nowlan, Pouliot, Richard (*Ottawa East*), and Robinson (*Bruce*).

In attendance: Mr. Nelson J. Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer, and Mr. E. A. Anglin, Q.C., Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

On motion of Mr. MacDougall,

Resolved,—That the Committee ask leave to sit while the House is sitting.

On motion of Mr. Dechêne,

Resolved,—That pursuant to the authority conferred upon it by the Order of Reference of Friday, February 25, 1955, the Committee print, from day to day, 750 copies in English and 200 copies in French, of its Minutes of Proceedings and evidence.

On motion of Mr. Cardin,

Resolved,—That a sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure, comprising the Chairman and six other members of the Committee, to be named by him, be appointed.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Castonguay and Mr. Anglin, and the former tabled, for distribution to each member of the Committee, printed copies of the amendments to the Canada Elections Act proposed by the Chief Electoral Officer; also communications, embodying various suggested changes, received by the Chief Electoral Officer since the coming into force of the 1951 Amendments to the Canada Elections Act from:

1. Jean-François Pouliot, M.P., Rivière-du-Loup, P.Q.
2. United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Toronto, Ontario.
3. Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.
4. Harvey Caulfield, Mount Forest, Ontario.
5. Canadian Teachers' Federation, Ottawa, Ontario.
6. Maurice C. Punshon, Toronto, Ontario.
7. Egan Chambers, Mount Royal, P.Q.
8. His Honour Judge Forsyth, Toronto, Ontario.
9. M. A. Myren, Portage-la-Prairie, Manitoba.
10. Robert Fair, M.P., Ottawa, Ontario.
11. United-Automobile-Aircraft-Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW-CIO) Local 439, Toronto, Ontario.
12. Manitoba Summer School, University of Manitoba.

13. Summer Session Students' Association of the University of British Columbia.

14. His Honour Judge Morley, Owen Sound, Ontario.

15. T. C. Anderson, Canadian National Steamships.

16. Provincial Normal School, Tuxedo, Manitoba.

17. F. H. Tanner, East Gore, N.S.

18. Graham P. Smith, Calgary, Alta.

19. A. A. Meadows, Guelph, Ontario.

20. PAC-CCL Political Action Committee, Toronto, Ontario.

21. J. P. Doherty, Provost, Alta.

22. Federation Women's Institutes of Canada, Unionville, Ont.

23. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Montreal, P.Q.

24. Robert Hewitt, Westmount, P.Q.

25. Leonora Starr, Newmarket, Ontario.

26. Major Gen. G. R. Pearkes, Ottawa, Ontario.

27. J. P. Doherty, Provost, Alta.

28. Donald H. Doherty, Secretary, District No. 4 Council, International Chemical Workers' Union, Toronto, Ontario.

29. Michael Engel, Montreal, P.Q.

The Chairman also tabled a communication addressed to him from Mr. M. Engel of Montreal.

On motion of Mr. Richard (*Ottawa East*),

Resolved,—That all communications tabled by both Mr. Castonguay and the Chairman be published as an Appendix to the printed report of today's proceedings. (*See Appendix A—Items 1 to 29, inclusive*).

The Committee discussed matters of procedure and future meetings. It was unanimously agreed that the Committee should first proceed with a study of the Canada Elections Act, section by section, and as each such section in respect of which amendments are proposed or representations have been made are reached, the said proposed amendments and suggestions will be considered.

At 11 o'clock a.m., on motion of Mr. MacDougall, the Committee adjourned to meet again at 10.30 a.m., Thursday, March 10, 1955.

A. Chassé,
Clerk of the Committee.

APPENDIX “A”

Item No. 1

(TEXT)

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

CANADA

C.P. 57, Rivière-du-Loup

le 14 septembre 1953

Monsieur Nelson Castonguay
Directeur général des élections
EASTVIEW, Ont.

Cher monsieur Castonguay,

J'ai eu des représentations de plusieurs chefs de mon comté pendant le temps des élections, relativement aux Instructions aux sous-officiers rapporteurs des bureaux de votation ordinaires (cahier G), en ce qui a trait à l'heure.

Je vous serais obligé de faire changer "heure normale" (1ère ligne de la page 6, etc.) par "heure solaire" dans la traduction française de la loi électorale et des instructions aux sous-officiers rapporteurs. *Heure normale* prête à confusion.

Je vous remercie de l'attention que vous voudrez bien donner à cette question et je vous prie de me croire

Votre tout dévoué,

(signé) Jean-François Pouliot.

MRL

No. 1

(Translation)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

P.O. Box 57 Rivière du Loup

September 14, 1953

Mr. Nelson Castonguay,
Chief electoral officer,
Eastview, Ont.

Dear Mr. Castonguay,

I have received representations from several organizers in my constituency at election time, in regard to the Instructions to deputy returning officers (book G) in respect to "time".

I should be obliged if you would replace "heure normale" (1st line on page 6, etc.), by "heure solaire" in the French translation of the Elections Act and in the Instructions to deputy returning officers. *Heure normale* leads to confusion.

I wish to thank you for the attention you will give this matter, and I remain

Yours truly,

(sgd) Jean-François Pouliot.

Item No. 2

UNITED ELECTORAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA

District Five Council

292 Jarvis Street

Toronto 2, Ontario
December 2nd, 1953

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Find enclosed copies of resolutions adopted at the Annual Convention of the Canadian section of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

These matters, we believe, come within the jurisdiction of your Department. We would appreciate your making our views known to the Government and we hope the representations made will be given serious consideration.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) Geo. Harris
Secretary-Treasurer.

YOUTH—VOTING RIGHTS

Therefore be it resolved that this Convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), District 5, strongly urge the government to introduce legislation implementing the 18-year old vote.
Resolution adopted, Annual Convention,

United Electrical, Radio and Machine,
Workers of America (UE), October 8-11,
1953, Toronto, Ontario.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Whereas in the present voting procedure in federal elections some constituencies elect members with a few thousand votes, while others are based upon a much greater representation.

Therefore be it resolved that we urge upon the government that all constituencies be divided in such a way that candidates are elected by approximately the same number of voters.

Resolution adopted,

District Five Annual Convention,
United Electrical, Radio and Machine
Workers of America (UE), October 8-11,
1953, Toronto, Ontario.

Item No. 3

MINISTER OF LABOUR
CANADA

December 3rd, 1953.

Dear Mr. Castonguay:—

The Prime Minister yesterday, commenting on the attached brief submitted by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada to the Cabinet, advised the delegation that he would see their suggestion with regard to the Election Act would be brought to the attention of the proper official.

Just in case you have not as yet seen a copy of the memorandum submitted by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada a copy is enclosed for your information. You will find reference to the Election Act on Page 16.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ned Bossé,
E. Bossé,
Executive Assistant.

Nelson Castonguay, Esq.,
Chief Electoral Officer,
McArthur Ave.,
Eastview, Ontario.

MEMORANDUM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA—1954.
ELECTION ACT

We would remind our Government that election day this year coincided with the opening day of our annual Congress convention. The result was that more than six hundred delegates from all parts of Canada were unable to exercise their franchise. We realize, of course, that such an unhappy coincidence might never happen again, but we would point out that there are very many organizations in Canada which hold regular conventions and that it may very well be that no election date could be set which would not conflict with one or more of such conventions with consequent disfranchisement of the delegates.

This is not the only way in which our members are disfranchised. There are now several hundred full time representatives of trade unions in Canada and their duties require them to do a great deal of travelling. No provision is now made for any of these representatives to vote at the advance polls.

This Congress, therefore, urges our Government to proceed with the necessary amendments to the Election Act in order that our convention delegates and full time trade union representatives may be able to fully exercise their right to vote in any future federal election.

At the same time we request that the voting age be reduced to eighteen years.

Item No. 4

Mount Forest,
Ontario, Canada,
Aug. 15, 1953.

Personal Attention
The Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that once an election is over work is begun for the next one. Here is a provision that might be added to Book G—11—51—80M.

It has to do with Provincial Police. We have about 30 here as this is a divisional headquarters. These men are subject to transfer almost over night and I personally cannot find a ruling that would allow them to vote should they and their families be moved say a week or two before the vote. In brief not even covered by the 30 day clause. I was a deputy returning officer and this point came up but we were able to handle it as it turned out to be alright. However, if not the nearest type case I would see was in Sect. 11-D, page 36, similar to a clergyman ruling. Perhaps it is not a comparable case but I think it is.

If I am right it wouldn't be a bad idea to put a clause in covering them for the next election.

I enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for a reply. Naturally, I want to be helpful to you and know it is only by people keeping you informed that all cases can be covered so drop me a line and let me know what you think of my idea.

Of course it may be covered somewhere and I haven't found it. Thank you.

Yours very truly,

MRL

(sgd) Harvey Caulfield

Item No. 5

CANADIAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION

Secretary-Treasurer:
George G. Croskery,
444 MacLaren Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.
Phone 2-8089

OCTOBER 1, 1953.

Honourable and dear Sir:

By resolution of the annual general meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, I am instructed to request the Government of Canada to make provision in the Canada Elections Act to prevent disenfranchisement of a large body of Canadian citizens, including teachers, when an election is held during the summer months.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) George G. Croskery,
Secretary-Treasurer

Canadian Teacher's Federation

GCG/M
The Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

Item No. 6

Maurice C. Punshon,
CCF Candidate for Greenwood,
1434 A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

Sept. 14th/53.

Chief Electoral Officer,
J. N. Castonguay.

Dear Sir:

When an influential Canadian newspaper, ie, The Telegram supports in an editorial the contents of a letter you have sent them for publication, then I believe that it must be of sufficient value to send to the authorities concerned

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which the Toronto Star and the Telegram printed containing some observations on the recent election. Some of these may be quite practical some may not, but I do hope that you as Chief Electoral Officer will give them some consideration.

Reference to number (2) If vacationers are permitted to use the advance poll, maybe they should produce a form signed by their employer stating they will be away at the time of the election. This would cut down unnecessary use of the advance poll.

(3) Obviously I refer to the extension of the franchise to those in hospital or ill at home who are of sound mind and have no contagious illness. The Tely's suggestion that shut-ins vote by mail is the kind of idea I am trying to get across.

(4) I think it would be an educational experience for the armed services to be able to receive election material, not only from the Liberal Party but other parties too.

(5) The recent election was poorly enumerated. Many people were left off the Voters' Lists, including myself! I had to get my name placed on the revised list! Some of the returning officers have been at the job for a long time and they have become a little careless, unconsciously so, they assume too much that the enumerators and the DRO's have been adequately informed.

(6) I'm concerned over the number of spoiled ballots. In the York Humber race 300 ballots were rejected.

I hope these observations will be helpful and that serious consideration will be given by the government to review the act.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Maurice C. Punshon.

Copy of letter sent to the Toronto Press

AUGUST 27, 1953.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:

The new parliament must review the Election Act. As a Candidate in the recent federal election, the following are some observations I made that could be suggested as amendments.

(1) Advance poll should be extended to cover additional forms of employment that requires workers to be away from their place of residence ie, teachers, construction workers, etc.

(2) A serious attempt should be made to permit vacationers use of the advance poll.

(3) Citizens in hospitals and ill at home should not lose their franchise and I would seriously recommend a travelling DRO and clerk for each riding or group of ridings to carry out this function.

(4) The armed services mailing list should be made available to all political parties or to none. The CCF and Conservatives have as much right to this list as the Liberals. The armed services of Canada are employed by the Canadian People not the Liberal Party.

(5) More efficient instruction of returning officers so they in turn can intelligently instruct their enumerators. The recent election was poorly enumerated.

(6) The Chief Electoral Officer should be instructed to place "ads" in newspapers explaining how citizens should mark their ballots so they will not be spoilt. Far too many Canadians lose their vote because of last minute instructions, excitement and confusion.

(7) If a resident is left off the Voters' List through error or carelessness and positive proof is available of the persons residence, a sworn oath or statement should be acceptable.

The Election Act should be elastic enough to permit as many Canadians as possible to exercise their franchise and participate in the democratic process. This should be the main objective in any review of the Act.

Maurice C. Punshon,
Scarlet Park, Lake Couchiching.

(Editorial in *The Telegram*—September 14, 1953.)

FEDERAL VOTING PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MORE ELASTIC

There is widespread opinion that the Election Act of Canada would be the better for amendment along various lines. Some of these are listed in a letter to *The Telegram* from Maurice C. Punshon, CCF candidate in Greenwood in the recent election. His proposal that advance poll privileges should be extended beyond the few categories now covered was made in these columns when the Prime Minister announced August voting, and should be acted upon before another election. It is to be hoped, however, that summer polling will never again be imposed by any Canadian government.

Mr. Punshon presents the case of vacationers and of persons unable through illness to vote under present conditions. Some states of the Union extend advance poll privileges to persons on vacation. New York state provides only for those away unavoidably and on business. In Australia, where compulsory voting has been in effect for 28 years, an elector may vote at any poll within his own state, for a candidate in his home constituency, and if a shut-in he may vote by mail. There is a fine of about \$4.50 for failure to vote, and the result has been a poll of about 90 per cent, ever since the system became operative.

Arising probably from an incident at an RCAF station in Ontario, Mr. Punshon contends that the armed services mailing list should be made available to all parties or none. The armed services, he points out, "are employed by the Canadian people, not the Liberal party." He sees a need for better instruction of returning officers. These for some years have been permanent appointments, tending to a sound knowledge of the rules, and the Chief Election Officer, J. N. Castonguay, has been indefatigable in their promulgation to all concerned, but there has been evidence even here of room for improvement.

The statute should be directed to encouragement of the greatest possible use of the franchise by Canadian electors, and revision to that end should be on the agenda for next session of Parliament.

Item No. 7

49 Palmerston Avenue,
Town of Mount Royal, P.Q.
SEPTEMBER 11th, 1953.

The Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—

At the General Election of August 10th, 1953, I was a candidate in the Electoral District of St. Antoine-Westmount. Such being the case, it is my privilege, I believe, to send to you suggestions for improvements in the Canada Elections Act which seem desirable to me. I have several such suggestions and to explain why I feel them to be desirable, I would like first to describe certain occurrences in St. Antoine-Westmount on Election Day, August 10th, 1953.

It was reported to me by Agents that I appointed to polling stations that there were 89 instances of two votes being cast in one name in 13 polls. The numbers of the polls and the number of such occurrences in each, as reported to me, appear below as appendix "A". These can be checked against the records in the Poll Books. That is to say, that in 89 cases in 13 polls an elector arrived at the poll to find that a vote had already been cast in his name, but was able to identify himself satisfactorily, and having taken the oath was allowed to vote. This figure cannot include those people who, on discovering that a vote had been cast in their name, left the poll unaware that they nevertheless had a right to vote. Nor can it include votes that were cast in the name of electors who were out of town on the day of election, although several such instances have come to light, and persons who engage in these practices would naturally concentrate on personating electors who are known to be unable to vote themselves. A fairly conservative estimate of the number of cases of personation in St. Antoine-Westmount on August 10th would be 1,000.

Three men were arrested at the polls on charges of personation. It is interesting to note that in two cases I personally was at the poll in question and requested that a warrant be made out, and in each case the offender had arrived at the poll accompanied by three other men who left when the arrest was made. In the third case the accused man was accompanied by six other men who were arrested. As you know, the majority of election officials and candidates' agents at a poll are women and it is difficult for them to bring about the arrest of a personator when they are moving in groups of four or more men.

The conduct of the Deputy Returning Officers was in many cases unsatisfactory. When it became apparent that a large number of persons were attempting to vote under false names, it was necessary for candidates' agents to ask that many voters take the oath. In some Polls the Deputy Returning Officers refused for a while to require that the oath be taken on the grounds that it took too much time. In Poll 39 it was discovered that there were 175 ballots in the box, initialed by the Deputy Returning Officer and only 169 names entered in the Poll Book. A man was arrested at Poll 23A for personation on a warrant issued by the Deputy Returning Officer. Subsequently the Deputy Returning Officer refused to sign the charge for the police.

It is not my intention in this report to suggest that the result of the election in St. Antoine-Westmount would have been different had these things not taken place, nor is it my intention to place the responsibility for them on any individual. It is, however, my strong feeling that an Act under which these things are possible is in need of improvement.

I would therefore suggest that the Canada Elections Act be amended with the following effect:

- (1) That Form 7, "Enumerator's Notice to Elector", bear on its face as a further description of the elector, the elector's age; and,
- (2) That the Forms 7 be consecutively numbered and strictly accountable by the enumerators; and,
- (3) That the second copies of Form 7 be supplied to the Deputy Returning Officer to be kept in the poll on the day of election; and,
- (4) That the Revising Officers issue to each elector placed on the lists by them a Form 7; and,
- (5) That every elector be required to produce for the inspection of the Deputy Returning Officer his Form 7 before being issued a ballot, and that failing this the elector be required to swear an oath that he is the person described on the list of electors; and,
- (6) That any person who is guilty of personation be liable on indictment, or, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years with or without hard labour: and,
- (7) That every urban polling station be located in a place equipped with a telephone, unless the Returning Officer can show that this is impossible; and,
- (8) That the Deputy Returning Officers be appointed by the Returning Officer on the nomination of the Candidate, who at the next previous election received the greatest number of votes: and,
- (9) That the Poll Clerks be appointed by the Returning Officer on the nomination of the Candidate who at the next previous election received the second largest number of votes.

I request that pursuant to section 58, subsection 2, of the Canada Elections Act, that you include this letter in your next report to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Egan CHAMBERS

MRL

APPENDIX "A" TO No. 6

NUMBER OF CASES OF TWO VOTES BEING CAST IN ONE NAME AS REPORTED BY CANDIDATES' AGENTS

Poll 25	3	double votes
Poll 26	5	" "
Poll 27	3	" "
Poll 28	8	" "
Poll 29	3	" "
Poll 30	20	" "
Poll 31	10	" "
Poll 32	18	" "
Poll 33	1	" "
Poll 34	9	" "
Poll 36	2	" "
Poll 38	1	" "
Poll 39	6	" "
Total.....	89	" "

Item No. 8

Judge's Chambers
City Hall
Toronto, Ontario

Sept. 1, 1953

N. Castonguay, Esq.,
Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Castonguay:

I am submitting herewith certain suggestions for amendment to the Canada Elections Act:

Section 45 (3) provides that a ballot paper shall be marked "by making a cross with a black lead pencil." I found on a recent recount that many ballots were marked with a ball-point pen. I think this subsection should be amended to allow ballots to be marked with either pen or pencil.

Section 50 (2) (d)—This subsection gives rise to much dispute. I think it should provide that "any ballot not marked in accordance with the provisions of this Act should be rejected."

Section 54 (1)—I think this subsection should be amended to require more precise evidence as to irregularities before an Order for a recount is made. Under the subsection it would appear that some credible witness need merely depose that one or two ballots have been improperly rejected to secure such an order. The Act should require the witness to furnish particulars of sufficient irregularities that they might, in the opinion of the Judge, influence the result. In the alternative, I think that where a particular irregularity is deposed to, that the Judge should have the power to enquire only as to that particular irregularity, without the necessity of making a complete recount. For instance, if it is alleged that in Polling Division No. 25 two ballots marked for "A" were improperly rejected, then the enquiry should be limited to an examination of these two ballots.

Section 54 (2)—I think this subsection should be amended to include "any Judge of the County whom the Senior Judge may designate." I see no sufficient reason why only the Senior Judge should be empowered to conduct a recount. In the County of York there are eighteen Electoral Districts, and if by chance recounts were ordered in several districts, it would be impossible for the Senior Judge to conduct all of them.

Section 54 (7)—This subsection would appear to require that the Judge should personally count each ballot. I have just completed the recount of votes totalling 27,150 in the York-Humber district. This is too heavy a task for one person. I submit this subsection should provide that a recount be "under the supervision of the Judge".

Re Affidavits of Objection—Paragraph 257 of the Instructions for Returning Officers requires the Revising Officer to be available three afternoons or evenings of the three days prior to the first day of the sittings, and on the third day he must keep himself available in the *afternoon* only.

It has been found both in Federal and Provincial elections that Affidavits of Objections are practically nil, and while it is necessary to make some provision for this, it is suggested that two evenings and one afternoon are

more than necessary to take care of this; also the compulsory *afternoon* sitting is difficult to arrange as many of the lawyers acting as Revising Officers have court engagements. Another difficulty that arises is that the home address of the Revising Officer, where it is stated he will be available for Affidavits of Objection, is often a great distance away from his Revisal District, particularly so in the Yorks.

It is suggested that one of the following changes be made in connection with these Affidavits of Objection:

(a) That Affidavits of Objections be heard, at the *Place of Revision*, at 10 a.m. on the first day of the Sittings. (If any Affidavits of Objection are received at this time, an appointment for the Person Objected To can be given for the following Monday morning, at either the Place of Revision, or the office of the Returning Officer).

or (b) That Affidavits of Objection be heard by the Revising Officer, at a place designated, on Monday evening, the third day before the sittings, between the hours of seven and ten o'clock in the evening.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) Robert Forsyth
Judge Robt. Forsyth.

Item No. 9

15-20th Street N.W.,
Portage la Prairie, Man.
MARCH 13, 1954.

Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Last summer I served as one of the enumerators for Poll 8 Portage-Neepawa, and in response to your invitation I am making a suggestion. It is this, that *two full weeks* be allowed the enumerators for completing their work.

Things are different now from what they were in the "hungry thirties" when enumerators were a dime a dozen and a person could, generally speaking, give his undivided attention to this work.

In our poll 722 voters were enumerated. My co-enumerator was a widow in addition to caring for her home and two children was also nursing her father through his final illness. She also had a part time job which called for night duty. For myself, while I am past seventy and supposed to be retired, I have a part time job which requires my attention about four afternoons a week.

I might also mention that we started out by running into two days of extremely hot weather. The third day we had a pouring rain all day, which slowed us up considerably.

Very truly,

MRL

(sgd) M. A. Myren

Item No. 10

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADAOTTAWA, Ontario,
DECEMBER 2, 1953.Mr. J. Nelson Castonguay,
Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Castonguay:

As a result of many criticisms since the Election of August 10, last, I would suggest that if and when an Elections Committee is again set up, that consideration should be given to a problem which has been discussed in recent years—namely, placing initials after the candidates' names on the ballot paper to show which party he belongs to.

I understand that on various occasions during the recent election that voters were unable to tell which candidate represented the particular party they wished to support and because of, in many cases, refusal of the D.R.O. to give them this information, they returned to their homes without casting their ballots.

Trusting you will include this suggestion with others to be placed before the committee.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Robert Fair.

R. Fair, M.P.,
Battle River-Camrose.

RF/GH

Item No. 11

United Automobile-Aircraft-Agricultural
Implement Workers of America (UAW-CIO)
Local 439

International Union

942 King St. West,
Toronto 3, Ont.

JULY 15, 1953.

Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed resolution has been adopted by the membership of Local 439 UAW-CIO and I have been instructed to forward it on to you.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) P. A. Smith, Rec.-Sec.

PAS:da
encl.
MRL

LOCAL 439 UAW-CIO RESOLUTION

Party Name on Ballot

Whereas in several of Canada's provinces, the ballot used in provincial elections carry not only the candidate's name, but also his party affiliation, a procedure not included in federal elections, and

Whereas the inclusion of the party name on the ballot will assist many voters to determine correctly the name of their choice on the ballot, be it

Therefore resolved that this 1953 Convention of the Canadian Congress of Labour urge the Federal Government to change our federal elections' laws to provide for the inclusion of party affiliations, as well as the name of each candidate on the ballot.

MRL

LOCAL 439 UAW-CIO RESOLUTION

Advance Poll and Absentee Voters

Whereas thousands of Canadians citizens were disenfranchised by being out of their home polling sub-division on holidays on August 10th, and

Whereas the calling of the 1953 Federal Election during Canada's paid vacation period was in our opinion a political manoeuver aimed at reducing the labour vote, and,

Whereas such tactics tend to weaken rather than strength respect for our democratic procedures, be it

Therefore resolved that this convention of the Canadian Congress of Labour urge the Federal Government to so amend Canada's election act to permit eligible voters, who are absent on election from their home polling sub-division to exercise their franchise—

- 1) by the extension of coverage of the advance poll provisions to permit any person on the voters' list, who for any reasons will be out of his polling sub-division on election day, or
- 2) by providing for a form of absentee voting in Federal general elections, which would permit persons, out of their home polling sub-division, to vote in any other sub-division on declaration by oath that they have not voted and that they are on the voters' list in their home riding.

Item No. 12

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Canada
August 5, 1953.

Manitoba Summer School
Office of the Director

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. St. Laurent,

The enclosed petition is supplementary to that which was forwarded to you on July 29th from the University of Manitoba Summer School Students' Council. This enclosed supplementary petition is signed by officers of the students' organization of the Faculty of Education consisting of graduate students and all are teachers and of mature years. They constitute a part of the University of Manitoba Summer School.

Yours respectfully,

(sgd) W. M. HUGILL,
Director of the Summer School.

MRL

July 29th, 1953.

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. St. Laurent,

The Summer School Students' Council of the University of Manitoba Summer School, representing eight hundred students from all parts of the Province, in session from July 2nd to August 15th, wish to draw your attention to the loss of civic rights to which many of them will be subject because they will not be able to be in their own constituencies to exercise their franchise on election day, August 10th. Of our total enrolment, about 40% are active teachers whose homes are in rural parts of the Province.

We would respectfully request through you that the Government would take steps to redress this disfranchisement of a considerable section of the electorate of Manitoba, and authorize some system of absentee balloting, such as that with which we are familiar in municipal elections in the City of Winnipeg, so that in future elections citizens attending Summer Schools may not be deprived of the right to vote.

On behalf of the Council and Students of the University of Manitoba Summer School.

Yours respectfully,

(sgd) Irwin J. LEHMAN, President,
Donald McKINNON, Secretary.

Faculty of Education.

cc: Inspector Briskin
Mr. Longmore
Dean Scarfe
Professor Ferns

MRL

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Canada.

July 29th, 1953.

Manitoba Summer School
Office of the Director

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. St. Laurent:

The Summer School Students' Council of the University of Manitoba Summer School, representing eight hundred students from all parts of the Province, in session from July 2nd to August 15th, wish to draw your attention to the loss of civic rights to which many of them will be subject because they will not be able to be in their own constituencies to exercise their franchise on election day, August 10th. Of our total enrolment, about 40% are active teachers whose homes are in rural parts of the Province.

We would respectfully request through you that the Government would take steps to redress this disfranchisement of a considerable section of the electorate of Manitoba, and authorize some system of absentee balloting, such as that with which we are familiar in municipal elections in the City of Winnipeg, so that in future elections citizens attending Summer Schools may not be deprived of the right to vote.

On behalf of the Council and Students of the University of Manitoba Summer School.

Yours respectfully,

(sgd) Raymond HARRIS, President
Joan COHEN, Secretary.

cc.: Inspector Briskin
Dean Scarfe
Mr. Longmore
Professor Ferns

Item No. 13

SUMMER SESSION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
of
The University of British Columbia

August 14, 1953.

The Office of the Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 6, which carefully explains the reasons for the holding of the Federal Election on August 10 this year.

Your letter makes quite clear the problems, the solution to which necessitated holding the election on the date it was. However, it does not give any indication that the regulations which resulted in the disenfranchisement of half of the University of British Columbia faculty and students, some five hundred qualified voters, are to be altered to rectify this situation. As we interpret the Elections Act, the voters entitled to cast their ballots in advance of the prescribed day are at present drawn only from a few specific occupations.

We therefore strongly recommend that the Elections Act be amended in such a manner as to allow the large number of qualified voters, not covered by Section 17, but out of their constituencies on Election Day, to vote by absentee ballot.

Very truly yours,

SUMMER SESSION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

(sgd) A. J. LONGMORE,

President.

AJL: sr

Item No. 14

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO

JUNE 12, 1952.

Mr. Jules Castonguay,
Chief Electoral Officer,
Parliament Bldgs.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Castonguay:

re: Mariners Proxies

I have received a communication from Mr. Colin E. Bennett, M.P. for North Grey, with respect to this matter and he has sent me a copy of *Hansard* which deals with the last discussion that took place in connection with Mariners Proxies.

Permit me to state that probably the County of Grey, with the exception of possibly Toronto and other large ports, has had extensive experience with mariners proxies, and having been Chairman of the Election Board for this County at Provincial Elections, extending over a period of 20 years, I think I am in a position to make a fair statement respecting this matter. Last time when this matter was discussed apparently you did not have the advice of any Judge or Revising Officer who has had experience in dealing with mariners proxies.

Generally speaking, in the Provincial Elections, none of the Parties have watched this matter very carefully and the consequence was that many of these mariners were denied a vote because none of these Political Parties knew the law and did not realize that they should get after these proxies as soon as the Writ of Election has been issued.

However, I have a vote here on June 21st under the Liquor Licence Act 1946 Ontario and all the parties have diligently endeavoured to secure all the proxies they could and the result is, up to date I have granted 58 proxies out of a possible 80 in Owen Sound.

I hope you will take the contents of this letter into consideration and seriously consider bringing in necessary legislation at the present Session if possible.

Yours truly,

(sgd) G. W. Morley, Judge.

MRL

Item No. 15

CANADIAN NATIONAL STEAMSHIPS

Code Address
"Cangomar"
Code Used
Scott's 10th Edition

Our File No.

M. V. "Canadian Challenger"
Bridgetown, Barbados,

JULY 15th, 1953.

Nelson Castonguay, Esquire,
Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—

Prior to leaving Montreal on July 3rd, as Master of this Canadian National Steamships vessel, on a voyage which will keep me out of Canada until after the coming general election, I asked my wife to arrange to get a proxy form which, attested, I hoped would enable me to cast my ballot in absentia.

My home, now 5666 Beurling Avenue, Verdun, Quebec, was originally in the Constituency of Parry Sound, Ontario.

After diligent inquiry of various election Officials who could not, unequivocally, inform her, she wisely telephoned you in Ottawa.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy to her, as well as for the, to me, distressing information that there is no provision made for a Seaman to vote in a Federal election, and that, per se, his occupation, sometimes considered in the National interest, in fact disfranchises him while exercising it out of his home constituency.

I feel it quite impossible to accept with equanimity, at least without some protest, such a situation which might so easily be remedied, especially when it is remembered that such provision was made for balloting by Merchant seamen during the late hostilities.

Quite aside from my own case, in this Ship alone, some forty men under my command are similarly disfranchised, to say nothing of many other absent ships with their Canadian crews.

I feel assured that if it were brought to the attention of the proper Committee some provision would be made for registering the Seaman's vote in any subsequent election, permitting us to exercise our valued, and in the past hard fought for rights, as Canadians.

Yours truly,

(sgd) T. C. Anderson.

c.c.

Honourable Lionel Chevrier,
Minister of Transport,
Ottawa, Ontario.

MRL

Item No. 16

PROVINCIAL
NORMAL SCHOOL
TUXEDO, MANITOBA

AUGUST 5, 1953.

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. St. Laurent:

The Summer School Students' Council of the Manitoba Provincial Normal School Summer School, representing six hundred seventy-five students from all parts of the Province, in session from July 7th to August 15th, wish to draw your attention to the loss of civic rights to which many of them will be subject because they will not be able to be in their own constituencies to exercise their franchise on election day, August 10th. Of our total enrolment, about 15% are active teachers whose homes are in rural parts of the Province.

We would respectfully request through you that the Government would take steps to redress this disfranchisement of a considerable section of the electorate of Manitoba, and authorize some system of absentee balloting, such as that with which we are familiar in municipal elections in the City of Winnipeg, so that in future elections citizens attending Summer Schools may not be deprived of the right to vote.

On behalf of the Council and Students of the Manitoba Provincial Normal School Summer School

Yours respectfully,

(sgd) J. A. Cliffe, President.
M. A. Loree, Secretary.

MRL

Item No. 17

FEBRUARY 22, 1954.

Managing Director,
The House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Some few years ago the Attorney at Law of the Ramsay Co., Ottawa, Can., consulted me to the degree by sending out a pamphlet to me asking me if I could improve the Legislature of any province of Canada. Sir, my being a inventor through devising one or more meritorious inventions, I suggest

a improvement in the voting profession. This idea will save time, labour and money. I may be making a wrong statement. I maybe advising the wrong officials in this profession. Anyway, if the government officials that is now in power at the House of Commons in Ottawa, cannot make this improvement in the Legislature—the idea could be passed along to the right and proper people at the local offices—that is if my idea of improvement will improve the Legislature. As you all know, in the past, there has been a good deal of misunderstandings referring to the ballots and ballot boxes before and after the elections, as we elect new members and re-elect members of Parliament. So to save time, labour and money to improve the voting profession, all we will have to do is station a ballot box at every P.O.—in every district, it being a locked ballot box, then on the other hand let the voters receive there blank ballots from the P.O. There should be space provided on the new ballots so that each and every voter, man or woman, would have to sign their name on the ballot as well as mark it with an X. . . . and them boxes could be erected at the post offices one month before the final election day, both dates inclusive, then them boxes could be returned to the head offices and opened and the legal ballots counted. You see the idea of the people signing their name on the ballot as well as marking with an X, there would be no chance for anyone to vote or mark more than the one ballot each election, and furthermore, this way of conducting an election any person not able to go to the polls could mark it, sign it, and send it to the Box then them that wanted to represent their government in power would have a legal and fair chance to do so and them that don't, vote could do otherwise as they do in the past.

This way of ruling an election in order to put legal men in power would be a time, labour and money saving improvement. As I see it if the ballot boxes was erected at the P.O. the ballots could be issued out to every individual from the P.O., and as I quoted before a space provided on the ballot so each voter would have to sign his or her name on the ballot as well as mark it with an X. That would prevent anyone from voting more than the once at any election from time to time.

If I have made any mistake by sending this data to the House of Commons at Ottawa, will you be kind enough to refer it to the right and proper people at the local office here in Canada, so that we can get that profession straight in the future. That way of running an election I am sure it will save time, labour and money in the future in more than one way. This will give the people as a government a fair and legal chance to keep our members of Parliament in power.

Sir or Madam, I would not give this profession the second thought only as I quoted before in the past. The Ramsay Company, Attorney-at-Law asked me if I could improve the Legislature so as I see it, this is one profession where the Legislature can be improved for the benefit of our government officials in power now and likewise in the future.

So please pass this data along to the right and proper people and you will greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) F. H. Tanner
East-Gore, Hants, Co. N.S. R.R.1.

Item No. 18

THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY
HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, 1, CANADACanada Life Building,
8th Avenue and 2nd Street West
CALGARY, ALTA.

AUGUST 7th, 1953.

Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I have just learned that I am to be disfranchised on Monday, August 10th, due to the fact that I was confined to hospital on July 31st, and will be here some two or three weeks. Apparently the Election Act makes no provisions for such cases.

I wish to draw your attention to this fact and ask that consideration be given to amending the Act so that voting rights will be provided for those, who through no fault of their own, are unable to present themselves at their own polling booths on election day.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) Graeme P. Smith, C.L.U.,
Branch Manager

MRL

Item No. 19

24 Clark St. W.,
Guelph, Ont.,

Sept. 7, 1953.

Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—

Many thanks for yours received August 28, 1953 in relation to votes in my opinion cast at service hospitals. I myself have just left hospital and now reside at above address. There is an institution ran by Salvation Army called The Eventide, 24 Clarke St. W., Guelph, Ontario, as shown by address.

Having been in hospital for six months is a long time but now recuperating. It is a long time to be tied up, as I say, 6 months in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, 7 months in General Hospital, Guelph, 5 months in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital—so I think I have had my share.

Kindly give the Prime Minister my best wishes and once again congratulations on your last success of August 10th. I have great regard for him and trust I shall always have.

I am a man of 75 and enter with less feelings at success and can only say in all sincerity God be with him at all times.

My purpose in writing is to ask why is not a vote ballot given to those who are laid up in these institutions at election time—such was my case on August 10th—no vote—no nothing—one feels he is lost out his services to vote. Is there no remedy for them? I would be pleased to see the matter taken up. I claim any man is entitled to vote Yes or No. I am sorry I lost out August 10th as I felt I should not. Have been a Liberal for 75 years and shall always remain for I see no reason to change for Drew and his click so long as I can follow the Prime Minister. I am a Protestant and not a Catholic but that makes no difference. The Prime Minister is a gentleman of his word. Best wishes to him personally and good luck.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) A. A. MEADOWS

MRL

Item No. 20

PAC-CCL Political Action Committee—Canadian Congress of Labour
11½ Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario

HENRY WEISBACH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April 15, 1954.

Honourable J. W. Pickersgill,
Secretary of State,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir:—

It has been brought to our attention that a group of sailors who sail the Arctic area has continually been deprived of their vote. These men leave their home areas in the spring months and sometimes do not return until late in the Fall or Winter.

They do not have an opportunity to make use of the advance polls because their boats are in continuous motion and they do not have a chance to get to any voting stations. Some of these men have voiced the opinion that they should be treated similarly to the armed forces who have the opportunity to vote for the candidates in their own constituencies. They feel they are deprived of their democratic right. During the last federal election there were about 160 to 180 sailors in the northern waters who did not have an opportunity to cast their ballots.

The problem outlined above would lead us to believe that changes in the Canada Elections Act would be necessary in order to enable people under these circumstances to make use of their democratic right to cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice.

I would appreciate knowing whether the government is contemplating a change in the Election Act to include a provision for absentee ballots which would include people in similar circumstances.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) Henry WEISBACH,
Executive Secretary.

MRL

Item No. 21

March 11, 1954.

Chief Electoral Office,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sirs:—

Owing to the lack of interest taken in elections and the consequential low percentage of voting I feel this would be a good time to draw attention to the House while in session to withdraw some of the restrictions on advertising and general bally hoo on Election Day. I refer you to Sec. 377 in Book A34, Instructions to R.O.'s as examples.

Years ago we carried those things in our cars, coat sleeves and bill posts and called out more voters than we now do. Less than half the eligible voters turned out to last Summer's Federal election. Most absentees forgot about an election. Thanking you for attention to this.

(sgd) J. P. DOHERTY,
Provost, Alta.

MRL

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

Box 64, Unionville, Ont., Sept. 25/53.

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:—

At the Biennial Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada held in Toronto, August 24th to August 27th, the following Resolutions were passed:

1. "Whereas, there is a growing awareness amongst women, as individuals and in organizations, of their responsibilities as citizens, and
Whereas, women constitute over one half the Voters of Canada
Therefore, be it resolved

That the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request the Federal Government to honour women of outstanding ability, irrespective of their political affiliations by appointing a woman to the Senate to represent each Province as a vacancy occurs."

2. "Whereas, there is no way of knowing the date of a Federal Election when making plans for National or International Conventions, and

Whereas, many Delegates attending the Conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World held in Toronto, August 12th to 23rd, were deprived of their franchise,

Whereas, it is in the interests of good citizenship that all should record their votes,

Therefore, be it resolved

That the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request that the Election Act be amended to include all Delegates attending National or International Conventions, on the list of those permitted an advance Poll."

We shall be glad if you will kindly have these Resolutions placed before the proper authorities for their consideration.

Yours very truly,
(sgd) Mrs. G. Gordon MAYNARD,
Sec'y-Treas. F.W.I.C.

MRL

Item No. 23

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Office of the general manager

530 Board of Trade Bldg.,
Montreal 1, Quebec.

DECEMBER 8, 1953.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Pickersgill:

Further to our presentation of our Policy Statement to the Cabinet, I note in today's Press reference to the referral of a resolution concerning Redistribution of Seats to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

In this connection, I am enclosing for your information and consideration a copy of the Policy Statement of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce dealing with Redistribution of Federal Constituencies. I am also enclosing the Policy Statement dealing with Federal Advance Polls.

We should be pleased to have your comments on these Policies after you have had an opportunity to review them.

Yours sincerely,

DLM:MM

(Sgd.) D. L. Morrell.

Federal Advance Polls

The Chamber believes that any qualified voter who signed a sworn statement to the effect that he or she would be unable to vote on polling day at the ordinary polling station due to absence for cause should be able to vote at an advance poll, and that advance polling stations should be opened sufficiently far in advance of election day to accommodate those who would make use of them.

The Chamber, therefore, urges the Federal Government to provide for the greatly extended use of advance polls in federal elections.

Redistribution of Federal Constituencies

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce further urges that the Federal Government make provision for constituency redistribution by a judicial committee.

(Extract from Policy Declarations and Resolutions as passed at the 24th Annual Meeting of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, held in Edmonton, September 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1953.)

Item No. 24

327 Redfern Avenue
Westmount, Montreal, P.Q.

DECEMBER 9th, 1954.

The Chief Electoral Officer,
Federal Government,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

In the recent By-Election for Westmount I was unable to vote at the advance poll. I feel the act covering voting should be amended.

Because I am listed as President of our Company I could not vote, whereas, if I had been a travelling salesman, or a floor sweeper on a train, I could have voted. Mr. W. J. Smail, the returning officer in charge at Westmount Athletic Grounds was very co-operative and considerate, but naturally could not operate contrary to the instructions given him. On this particular occasion a meeting of the Canadian Good Roads Association was being held in Toronto and I could not possibly have stayed over in Montreal until Monday to vote.

I hope some day the requirements will be changed to permit citizens to vote at an advanced poll, regardless of their status of employment.

Yours very truly,

RH/o'h

(sgd) Robert Hewitt

c.c. Hon. Mr. George Marler,
Minister of Transport,
Federal Government,
Ottawa, Ontario.

MRL

Item No. 25

98 Prospect St., Newmarket,

JUNE 30/53.

N. Castonguay, Esq.,
Chief Electoral Officer,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

When the Enumerators came around this year, they still listed "Spinster" after names of unmarried women.

Surely in this enlightened age when a person is keeping up their own home, they deserve at least Homekeeper after their name.

When they have Spinster after their name people get the idea they have no home but work for someone else.

Yours truly,

(sgd) Leonora Starr

MRL

Item No. 26

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

OTTAWA, January 12, 1955.

The Honourable Roch Pinard,
Secretary of State,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Pinard,

While I was at home before the present session of Parliament commenced, representations were made to me suggesting that Canadians serving abroad with departments of government, other than those in the armed services, should be given the opportunity of casting their votes at a general election, when voting facilities are available to personnel of the armed services.

These are, as you know, a number of Canadians in the public service in the United Kingdom, and at other points abroad. These people, I am informed, feel quite keenly that they should be deprived of their franchise when personnel of the armed services, frequently many years their junior in age and experience, and stationed at the same location, are able to exercise their franchise.

It would be very much appreciated if this proposal might be examined with a view to seeing whether it might be possible to amend the Election Act so as to enable Canadians in the government service, stationed abroad, to vote.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) George R. Pearkes
TM/CL

OTTAWA, January 13, 1955.

Dear General Pearkes,

I have your letter of January 12th supporting the suggestion made to you that voting facilities should be provided for Canadian employees of government departments abroad.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Chief Electoral Officer who will see that your representations are brought to the attention of the committee of the House which it is expected will shortly begin a study of the Canada Elections Act and proposed amendments thereto.

Yours sincerely,

(Rubber stamp) Roch Pinard
Secretary of State

Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Item No. 27

Jan. 6, 1955.

Hon. L. St. Laurent,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I wish to draw your attention to the by-election in the Camrose Constituency, owing to the death of Robert Fair.

It is expected that at least 3 candidates will be in the contest, and possibly more; that being the case why not have the Preferential Ballot same as the Alberta Provincial ballots? It is the only fair system in a case of plural contestants. This province insists upon several parties contesting, with the result that a true feeling of the voters is not obtained, and many are elected by Minority vote.

We had a case of it here in the last Federal election; the elected man had a minority vote that would have made a difference in the election if we had the Preferential Ballot.

Thanking you for your attention to this.

J. P. Doherty,
Provost, Alta.

OTTAWA (4)
JANUARY 14, 1955.

J. P. Doherty, Esq.,
Provost,
Alberta.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 6, concerning the forthcoming by-election in Camrose Federal Constituency.

Mr. St-Laurent has noted your views and has asked me to explain that in order to implement your suggestion that the preferential ballot be used Parliament would have to amend the Canada Elections Act.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Cross,
Secretary.

Ottawa, January 18, 1955.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

Your letter of January 6th, concerning the forthcoming by-election in the federal constituency of Camrose has been forwarded to me by the office of the Prime Minister.

Every once in a while a committee is set to study Elections Act. In fact, I have this year introduced a resolution to establish such a committee.

I am pleased to inform the Chief Electoral Officer of your interest in the matter and especially of your suggestion that preferential ballot be used at the forthcoming by-election in the constituency of Camrose, so that he can carefully note your representations and bring them to the attention of the committee at the proper time.

Yours very truly,
Roch Pinard

Mr. J. P. Doherty,
Provost,
Alberta.

Item No. 28

International Chemical
Workers Union

410 Bloor St. East,
Toronto 5. Ontario.

FEBRUARY 3rd, 1955.

Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister,
Dominion of Canada,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Right Honourable Sir,

Enclosed, please find resolutions endorsed by the delegates in attendance at the recent Conference of District No. 4 Council—International Chemical Workers' Union, A.F. of L., T.L.C., dealing with the following subjects:

National Health Plan
National Retirement Plan
Employment of people over 40 years of age
Unemployment in Canada
Unemployment Insurance
Income Tax exemptions
Immigration
Federal Election Act

Your consideration and action is respectfully urged regarding these important matters.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Donald H. Doherty
Donald H. Doherty, Secretary,
District No. 4 Council—
International Chemical Workers' Union.

Encl.

Whereas: the Federal Election Act seems totally inadequate for these times,

And Whereas: many citizens were deprived of their franchise at the last Federal Election through this Act,

And whereas: the Federal Election Act permits only and certain classes of workers to vote in advance polls,

Therefore be it resolved: that this Act be revised and amended to meet the requirements of the present day.

Submitted by:

Local 175 (Composite) Niagara Falls, Ont.

Ottawa (4),
February 10, 1955.

Donald H. Doherty, Esq.,
Secretary, District No. 4 Council,
International Chemical Workers' Union,
410 Bloor Street East,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 3, with which were enclosed resolutions passed by District No. 4 Council, International Chemical Workers' Union.

At Mr. St-Laurent's direction, the representations of the resolution are being referred for the attention of the appropriate Ministers.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Cross,
Secretary.

Ottawa, February 16, 1955.

Donald H. Doherty, Esq.,
Secretary, District No. 4 Council,
International Chemical Workers' Union,
410 Bloor Street East,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Doherty,

I have received from the Prime Minister's Office a copy of your letter of February 3rd, together with a copy of the Resolution concerning the Canada Elections Act.

It is expected that a Committee of the House of Commons will shortly be organized to consider proposed amendments to the Canada Elections Act. I am, therefore, bringing the Resolution to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer, who will submit it, with other representations which he has received on the subject, to the Chairman of the above-mentioned Committee when it is set up.

Yours sincerely,

Roch Pinard
Secretary of State.

Item No. 29

Michael Engel.
4516 Girouard #7.
Montreal.

MARCH 2nd 1955.

The Chairman,
The Parliamentary Committee on Elections.
House of Commons. Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

I shall be glad if you will kindly bring the following idea to the notice of your committee for consideration by them.

That the new election act should contain a clause to the effect that all electors who voted in a general election or a bye election should be eligible to partake in a draw or raffle for a cash prize of \$1,000 (tax free) in each constituency.

In practise it would be easy to arrange, by giving each voter a draw ticket together with the ballot. The ballot duly marked would go into the ballot box and the draw ticket duly filled in the the voters name and address would go into a separate draw box.

The poll officers could be in charge of the draw as they are in charge of the ballot boxes and the draw could take place at the same time as the counting of the votes and the name of the winner in each constituency announced at the same time as the election officer announces the name of the winning parliamentary candidate.

The cost could be covered by the cost of holding the election.

The effect would be that all would exercise their franchise. In particular the section of the population who do all the work and pay all the bills, men and women over 21, for a change would get back something directly from the government.

To the moralists who might object that it is bad for the soul to get something for nothing, it can be answered, that all religious devotees seek "something for nothing". All suplicants in their prayers point out how unworthy they are of the blessings they request.

In several countries there is penalising legislation for failing to vote at an election, let Canada be the first to have a new approach on this vital democratic function. I guarantee that with this new idea, the next elections would have a full turn out of voters and arouse unparalleled interest in the results.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) M. Engel.
Michael Engel.